

Library Quarterly

WINTER 2024-2025

New Year, New Reading Challenge p.7

One Book One Community p.8

Kid Market Application Period p.15



the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library



Message from the Director

Dear Community:

These coldest months of the year are when we find ourselves indoors the most, which is a great time to refocus attention on reading, connecting, and learning new things. I invite you to do so at your Vernon Area Public Library this season. The outstanding staff are here for you, providing services and programs that inspire curiosity, help you to learn and grow, and help everyone to connect with each other.

We serve the entire community, from age 0 to 100+ and are open nearly 75 hours almost every week throughout the year. All library programs, reader recommendations tailored to each person's interests, and professional research and technology help are available at no additional cost to any community member. From storytime for infants to the annual One Book One Community series for adults, we serve everyone at the Vernon Area Public Library District.

In addition, I'd like to highlight some resources to enjoy this winter. Everyone knows that the library provides books in print (about 190,000 items here at Vernon Area), but did you know that you have access to an additional couple hundred thousand e-books and e-audiobooks through an app called Libby? You likely know that Vernon Area has DVDs and Blu-rays available to check out, but did you know that you have access to streaming movies and more through Kanopy and Hoopla apps? Or that you can borrow a Roku device that comes pre-loaded with a variety of domestic and international streaming services?

There is much to take advantage of at the library this winter. For more information on any of these resources, please stop by any service desk, call us at 847-634-3650 or contact me by email at director@VAPLD.info.

Sincerely,



Vernon Area Public Library

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AdultDesk@VAPLD.info

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YouthDesk@VAPLD.info

Senior Connections: 224-543-1406,
senior@VAPLD.info



A Half-Century of Service

Vernon Area Public Library turns 50

Our story began with a small but consequential group of neighbors who were determined for our community to have a public library. That original 12-person steering committee found funding, borrowed a bookmobile, and hired our first three librarians. They put a referendum on the ballot, and it passed with an overwhelming majority — officially establishing the Vernon Area Public Library District in 1974.

As our community evolved, so did our library. The card catalog was computerized. Cassettes and VHS tapes gave way to CDs, DVDs and streaming services. E-books joined print and audio versions. Storytime graduates grew into high school graduates, and then into adults with families and new tots of their own.

As the community grew, so did the library. The public institution that began in a 400-square-foot room in Stevenson High School moved in 1979 into a purpose-built 10,000-square-foot building, and eventually into our current facility in 1993. The collection that began with 2000 donated books grew to encompass hundreds of thousands of items, including music, movies, e-books, STEM kits, telescopes, and even virtual reality goggles.

Many things have changed, but others have stayed the same, like the dedication of the library employees, volunteers, trustees and partners who work every day to connect library visitors with reliable information, vibrant culture, and a welcoming community.

Thank you everyone who has been a part of our story. We look forward to the chapters to come.





Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library

After-Hours Party & Fundraiser

Friday, November 22, 7–9 pm

Ages 21+ only | Tickets \$25, on sale now at VAPLD.info/foundation



Come out for a Friday night of adult festivities while helping to raise funds for popular library services. Your ticket includes appetizers and desserts, soft drinks, music, giveaways, interactive Makerspace crafts and Library of Things demonstrations. Cash bar and raffle prizes, too ... all while supporting the library you love.

This community celebration is made possible by the support of sponsors including Buffalo Grove Bank & Trust, Sedgebrook & Radford Green, Midwest Tapes, State Rep. Daniel Didech, and Vogue Printers

VAPLD & Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library

Thank you to our donors

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In memory of Daniel Biagio Buzzini;
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Featured Resources for adults



TAX FORMS

Paper copies of the most common tax forms are available at the library once we receive them. Find them in the library lobby — usually by mid-February.



PASS THE PAYWALL

Get instant access to read any of 6,000+ newspapers and magazines from around the globe with instant access wherever you are.
VAPLD.info/PressReader



CONSUMER REPORTS

Buy with confidence. Get the unbiased information you need for every purchase, from coffee makers to cars, plus tips about the best time to purchase. Free with your library card.
VAPLD.info/CR

Classes & Events for adults

Note location with each event (in person, online). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1485.

Tattered Kimonos in Japan

Take an intimate journey into contemporary Japan from the perspective of Japanese soldiers and civilians who survived World War II, with former NPR senior editor Robert Rand, whose American father and Japanese father-in-law fought on opposite sides of the conflict.

Tuesday, December 3, 1–2 pm 

One-Pot Winter Meals with Chef Susan Maddox

Stay warm this winter with hearty one-pot meals, including sweet corn and smoked salmon chowder, Korean-style braised chicken stew, and vegetarian chili. Recipes provided.

Wednesday, December 4, 7–8:30 pm 

Path to Citizenship

A one-hour overview of the journey from Green Card holder to U.S. citizen. Includes information about eligibility, N-400 applications, medical exceptions, fees, public benefits, and the interview and oath ceremony.

Tuesday, December 10, 6–7 pm 

Signup opens for Citizenship Preparation Classes

Prepare for your citizenship test in a small group. Content includes speaking, reading and writing English, along with U.S. history and civics. Classes meet for 12 weeks online, Tuesdays, January 6–April 1 from 7–8:45 pm. Sign up online at VAPLD.info/citizenship.

December 10: Signup opens for Vernon Area Library cardholders

January 3: Signup opens for all others

Explore the Magic of Jukebox Musicals

Discover the popular Broadway shows like *Mamma Mia!* and *Beautiful* that weave popular hits into a storyline. Presented by Matt Boresi of the Music Institute of Chicago.

Sunday, December 15, 1–2 pm 

Puzzle Race GRADES 3–ADULT

Put your jigsaw puzzle skills to the test in a timed competition. Teams have up to 2 hours to complete as much of a 500-piece puzzle as possible. Register individually or in a team of up to four people. Prizes will be awarded. Adult required for teams with children under 12.

Thursday, January 2, 1–3 pm 

Illinois Libraries Present

Log in for live events with celebrated authors and cultural influencers. Sign up in advance to receive the Zoom link.

These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries. Funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).



The Magic of Raina Telgemeier

GRADES 3 & UP

Tuesday, December 10,
7–8 pm [Z](#)



Experience Little Women: The Musical (2022) (Recording)

December 20–22 [Z](#)



Chicago Pizza - Past, Present & Future with Steve Dolinsky

Thursday, January 9,
7–8 pm [Z](#)



Love and Laughs with Michelle Buteau

Thursday, January 23,
7–8 pm [Z](#)



James McBride

Tuesday, February 4,
7–8 pm [Z](#)



Amy Tan

Wednesday, February 19,
7–8 pm [Z](#)

Art Workshop: Cardinals in Snow

Use watercolor paint to create a cardinal in snow on canvas with Jennifer Evans of Periwinkle Art Studio. No painting experience necessary.

Tuesday, January 7, 7–8:30 pm [B](#)

Wednesday, February 19, 7–8:30 pm [B](#)

English as a Second Language (ESL) Class Signup

New students: attend an informational meeting, placement testing, and registration. Classes meet twice a week beginning January 13/14. For info, call the Mundelein District 120 Adult Education Department at 847-949-2200 ext. 1399.

Wednesday, January 8, 9:15 am–12 pm [B](#)

Concert: A Jazzy New Year, Songs to Ring in 2025

Popular jazz vocalist Petra van Nuis and guitarist Andy Brown perform classic jazz favorites that inspire new beginnings.

Wednesday, January 15, 1–2 pm [B](#)

Travel Chicago's Elevated Transit System

Trace the history and discover the innovations Chicago's "L" system has employed and experimented with during its 131 years of service.

Wednesday, January 22, 1–2 pm [B](#) [Z](#)

Understanding Caste in India

Learn about the origins of the caste system and how it has evolved. Discover how invasions, colonization, and Indian independence influenced and transformed societal classification, impacting economic systems, cultural traditions, vocational choices, marriage, and public policy in India. Presented by the Hindu Parents Network.

Sunday, January 26, 1–2 pm [B](#) [Z](#)

Hamilton: The Man vs. The Musical

Examine myths from the musical *Hamilton* to learn how much was true about the actual man with Marti Londal, DC regional director of The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society.

Monday, January 27, 7–8 pm [Z](#)

Weddings During the Holocaust

Watch together at the library or on your own at home. View the World Holocaust Remembrance Center's online exhibit as it presents the stories of Jews who married during the Holocaust and those who married after the war in an effort to build new lives.

Wednesday, January 29, 11 am–12 pm [B](#) [Z](#)

Threads of Tradition: Women's Fashion in India

Learn about the cultural heritage of Indian women's clothing, regional variations, and how traditional fashions influence contemporary designs with VAPLD trustee Gayathri Kalyanaraman. View designs provided by Amitha Fashions.

Sunday, February 2, 1–2 pm [B](#)

The Golden Thirteen

Explore the experiences and legacy of the Golden Thirteen, the first African American commissioned officers in Navy, with an educator from the National Museum of the American Sailor.

Wednesday, February 5, 1–2 pm  

Parent Education: The Five Principles of Parenting with Dr. Aliza Pressman

Bestselling author Dr. Aliza Pressman helps you chart a manageable course for raising good humans that's aligned with your own values and your children's temperaments. Presented in partnership with D96, D102, and D103.

Wednesday, February 5, 7–8 pm 

80 Minutes Around the World: Immigration Stories

Experience a stellar storytelling show featuring the stories of immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, their descendants and allies. Created, produced and hosted by Nestor "the Boss" Gomez, 80+ time winner of the acclaimed The Moth storytelling events. This program is part of the Mosaic Series.

Sunday, February 23, 1–2:30 pm 

Shakespeare Project of Chicago Presents "The Winter's Tale"

A tale of jealousy and redemption, where a king's false accusations lead to tragedy and eventual reconciliation, blending elements of drama, comedy, and a miraculous resolution. The professional players of the Shakespeare Project of Chicago present a full theatrical reading.

Monday, February 24, 6:30–8:30 pm 



Concert: The Roots of Chicago Blues with Donna Herula Trio

This talented trio offers a fresh, contemporary perspective on blues and roots music, while acknowledging traditions.

Wednesday, February 26, 1–2 pm 

Creativity, Computers, & Career Development

Open Makerspace

Stop by to work on personalized gifts. We won't be teaching any new skills, but supplies will be available for sublimation printing and other crafts.

Thursday, December 5, 6:30–8:30 pm 
 Tuesdays, 6:30–8:30 pm 
 December 17, January 21, February 25

Maker Class: Sublimation Holiday Gifts

Make personalized gifts for the holidays. Learn to make personalized designs in Canva, then print them on a mug, ornament, tote bag, or tumbler.

Thursday, December 12, 6:30–8:30 pm 

Maker Class: Floral Tiles with Alcohol Ink

Create a decorative ceramic tile using alcohol inks.

Thursday, January 9, 6:30–8:30 pm 

Restoring Photos with GIMP

GIMP is a free, open-source alternative to Photoshop.

Tuesday, January 14, 7–8:30 pm 

3D Printing

Learn to use the free design software TinkerCAD to create your own 3D Prints.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm 
 January 16: Basics
 January 23: Design Considerations
 January 30: Moving Parts

Computers & Coffee: Getting Comfortable with Computers

Learn computer basics to help you stay informed or accomplish everyday tasks.

Tuesday, February 4, 10:30–11:30 am 

Maker Class: Valentine's Day Card

Make layered and multi-dimensional Valentine's Day cards using the library's die-cuts. All supplies provided.

Thursday, February 13, 6:30–8:30 pm 

Staying Safe While Using AI

Stay safe while using chatbots such as ChatGPT. Learn about misinformation, privacy, and copyright issues. Discuss options for different chatbots and practice using one.

Tuesday, February 18, 7–8:30 pm 

Job Search Best Practice: Overcoming Job Loss

Rebound and strategize after job loss. Learn what resources can help you make the most of today's online opportunities. Participants will receive a workbook with tips and resources. Offered in partnership with the other libraries of the Lake Cook Career Collaborative.

Wednesday, February 19, 6–8 pm 

Gmail Basics

Learn to create a free Gmail email account and use its features to send, receive, and organize email messages.

Thursday, February 20, 7–8:30 pm 

Google Drive

Learn to use this popular free cloud storage service to collaborate and improve productivity. Please bring your account name and password.

Thursday, February 27, 7–8:30 pm 



Discussions & Meetups

English Language Learners Conversation Group

Practice your English conversation skills with a librarian and other non-native English speakers.

Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm

In-Person: December 10, January 21, February 18

Online: January 7, February 4

Book Discussion with Judy Levin

Read and discuss intriguing selections beyond the bestsellers. Limited copies are available to Vernon Area Public Library cardholders for checkout.

Thursdays, 10–11:30 am

December 12: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

January 9: *Absolution* by Alice McDermott

February 13: *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff

Writers' Support Group

Share work, meet fellow writers, get constructive feedback, and discuss the publishing business in this informal group. All writers welcome.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm

December 12, January 9, February 13

Reel Talk Movie Discussion

Use your library card to check out or stream the film in advance, then log in to share your thoughts.

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 pm

December 13: *Mary and Max*

January 17: *A Suitable Girl*

February 21: *Ordinary Love*

Off the Hook: Knit & Crochet Group

Create in the company of other crafters online. Work on your own project, share ideas, and socialize. All skill levels welcome

Mondays, 7–8:30 pm

December 16, January 27, February 24

World Language Movie Discussion

Stream or borrow the movie with your library card, then discuss with fellow international cinema fans.

Wednesdays, 7–8 pm

December 18: *Never Gonna Snow Again*

February 26: *Anatomy of a Fall*

Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap

For readers in their 20s and 30s. See Meetup.com for details and signup.

Thursdays, 6–8 pm The Chatterbox in Long Grove
December 19, January 16, February 20

Games for Grown-ups TEENS & ADULTS

Play tabletop games together online or at the library.

Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm

December 22; January 12, 19; February 16

Novel Night Book Discussion: *The Bandit Queens*

Discuss this year's One Book One Community selection, *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff.

Tuesday, January 21, 7–8:15 pm

Memory Café - Buffalo Grove

Offering people with memory loss and their care partners activity and connection in a safe, supportive environment.

Thursdays, 2–3 pm Alcott Center, Buffalo Grove
January 23, February 27

One Book One Community Book Discussion

Discuss the book selected for this year's community-wide read, *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff. Find related programs and info about the author visit on p.8 or 1book.org.

Monday, February 3, 2–3 pm

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Professor Gary Midkiff leads discussion of topics from the Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions* briefing book.

Fridays, 1–2:30 pm

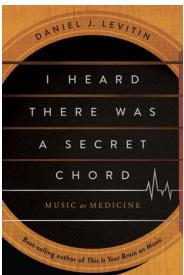
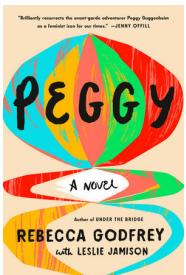
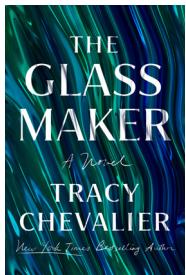
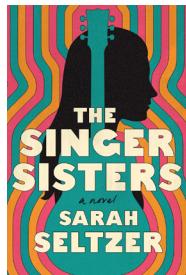
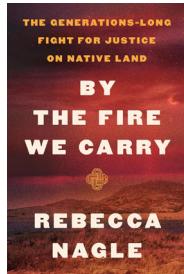
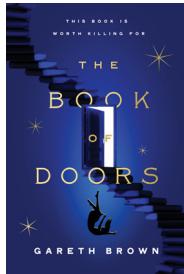
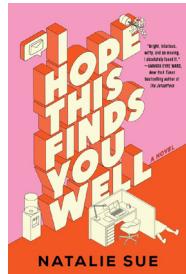
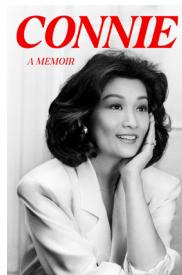
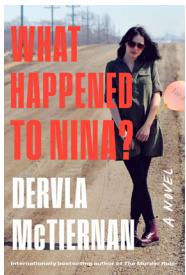
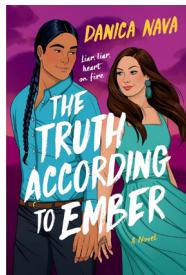
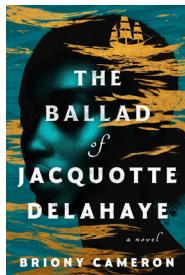
February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9

Wednesdays, 10:30 am–12 pm

February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21

New Year, New Reading Challenge

Make 2025 your year of reading! Starting in January, stop by the reference desk to learn about **Branch Out**, our year long challenge for adults looking to expand their reading horizons. Get a sneak peek below of some categories and reading ideas from Branch Out 2025.



What's In a Name?

Read a book with a name in the title.

The Ballad of Jacquette Delahaye
by Briony Cameron

The Truth According to Ember
by Danica Nava

What Happened to Nina?
by Dervla McTiernan

Miss Morgan's Book Brigade
by Janet Skeslien Charles

Connie
by Connie Chung

Discover a Debut

Read a debut author.

I Hope This Finds You Well
by Natalie Sue

The Book of Doors
by Gareth Brown

Daughters of Shandong
by Eve J. Chung

The Snap
by Elizabeth Staple

By the Fire We Carry
by Rebecca Nagle

Patron of the Arts

The arts or music, fact or fiction?

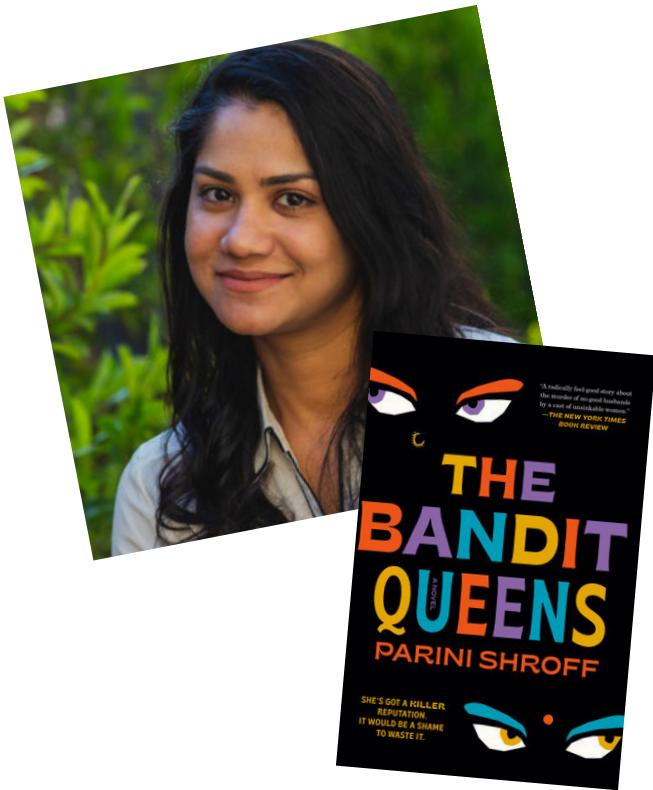
The Singer Sisters
by Sarah Seltzer

The Glassmaker
by Tracy Chevalier

Peggy
by Rebecca Godfrey with Leslie Jamison

Do What Godmother Says
by L.S. Stratton

I Heard There Was a Secret Chord
by Daniel J. Levitin



Q&A WITH AUTHOR **Parini Shroff**

We had a chance to ask Parini a few questions:

Q: One of your MFA mentors, Elizabeth McCracken, called your book "a hilarious romp about serious things," which is such a perfect way of putting it. Can you talk a bit about that?

A: Looking back, two things were happening in tandem: first, I was realizing proselytizing in my fiction was not

Now in its ninth year, this beloved annual series is an opportunity for readers from Vernon Area, Indian Trails, and Cook Memorial public libraries to join in a shared experience of literature. This year's selection is ***The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff**.

A young woman in rural India finds the false rumors that she killed her husband surprisingly useful—that is, until other women in the village start asking her to help them become “self-made widows,” too. For fans of *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri or the TV series “Dead to Me,” *The Bandit Queens* is a razor-sharp tale of female friendship filled with clever criminals, second chances, and wry and witty women.

working, and secondly, there was a pandemic raging outside my door and I was desperate for some levity. So much of the writing process is accepting what is not working so that you may find what might.

While drafting this novel in 2020, I found humor, albeit dark humor, creeping into the pages. I've always loved reading and watching dark comedy and with this novel, I think all those influences crept in when I needed it the most for my own sanity. However, I initially rejected this approach as irreverent. I sought to respectfully and accurately address the scourges of domestic abuse, gender/religious/caste ostracization and patriarchy.

“

... an original, memorable, and endearing story. At times deeply serious, then laugh-out-loud funny, Parini Shroff has written a sobering but hopeful exploration of womanhood, social injustices, and second chances. ”

—Charmaine Wilkerson

New York Times bestselling author of *Black Cake*

But the humor was insistent, and I eventually realized it could serve as a bolster, preventing the book from collapsing under its own weight. Rather than minimizing these timely issues, the humor was highlighting them. Satire is effective, I think, because it teaches while allowing an audience some comedic relief; and if you can educate and entertain, that goes a long way toward eradicating ignorance.

Q: How do you approach the concept of widowhood in the novel?

A: Widowhood in many countries including parts of India historically equates to doors closing on much of life: attire and ability and a whole myriad of opportunities in between. The idea that for these women widowhood, with all the restrictions it imposes, would be deemed preferable to life with a husband intrigued me. The novel is a twist on what we typically associate with widows—rather than grief there is freedom, rather than destitution there is self-reliance, and rather than isolation there is friendship.

Q: There are a variety of ways invisibility plays a part in your book ... about who in society people don't pay attention to, so we'll ask this: Which character do you feel that readers overlook or underestimate?

A: Khushi. It is my impression that for all the novel discusses caste and people have appreciated this exposure to the system, I'm rarely called upon to discuss Khushi's nuances as a character. The woman's a total badass. Given the myopic belief that handling corpses is "polluting" and therefore work for Dalits,

Khushi twists stigma and prejudice to her economic advantage, charging upper castes whatever she wishes. Much like Phoolan Devi, Khushi has the twice trodden disadvantage of not only being Dalit, but a Dalit woman. Corpse burning is seen as men's work, while women are often confined in purdah; therefore, that widowed Khushi assumes her husband's business to support her two sons despite her in-laws' objections is radical. And because she's out caste, unlike the other women in the novel, she finds her success without any help from the micro-loans. Phoolan Devi is of course a real historical figure, but I believe it's less known that Khushi's character is also based upon the very real and very fierce—though less famous—Yamuna Devi.

Q: What's next for you? Is there another book on the way? A movie version of *Bandit Queens*?

A: It would be lovely to see these characters come to life, but I'm very aware of how difficult and rare it is for an adaptation to come to fruition, as well as just how many wonderful stories are out there. That said, my fingers are crossed. To paraphrase the author Taylor Jenkins Reid: If my novel is my baby, the screen adaptation is my grandbaby. And I'd be honored to be a grandmother.

In the interim, I'm working on two novel manuscripts at the moment—I've never juggled like this before, but both stories have siren-called me and I'm happy to follow where they lead. 

One Book One Community Programs

Each library offers discussion groups and programs related to the themes of the book. All are welcome at these free events; sign up in advance. Note locations (in person, online). Find additional programs, details, and signup links at 1book.org.

One Book One Community Kickoff

Stop by to pick up a copy of the book, yours to keep, courtesy of the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District. One per household while supplies last.

Sun, Dec 8, 1–2 pm  Vernon Area

Book Discussions

Tue, Jan 14, 10:30 am  Indian Trails

Tue, Jan 14, 7 pm   Aspen Drive

Mon, Jan 20, 10 am   Aspen Drive

Tue, Jan 21, 7 pm  Vernon Area

Tue, Jan 28, 10:30 am  Indian Trails

Tue, Jan 28, 7 pm   Aspen Drive

Mon, Feb 3, 2 pm  Vernon Area

Thu, Feb 6, 7 pm  Indian Trails

Thu, Feb 13, 10 am  Vernon Area

Women and Entrepreneurship

Monday, January 6, 7–8 pm

 Indian Trails

Adoption Event with Heartland Animal Shelter

Sunday, January 12, 2–4 pm

 Indian Trails

Reel Talk Movie Discussion: *A Suitable Girl*

Friday, January 17, 3:30–4:30 pm

 Vernon Area

Murder Mystery Night

Friday, January 17, 6–8 pm

 Indian Trails

Music of India

Monday, January 27, 7–8 pm

 Aspen Drive Library

Threads of Tradition: Women's Fashion in India

Sunday, February 2, 1–2 pm

 Vernon Area

Understanding Caste in India

Sunday, January 26, 1–2 pm

  Vernon Area

Cuisine Inspired by *The Bandit Queens*

Wednesday, February 5, 7–8 pm  

Aspen Drive Library

The History and Traditions of Henna

Monday, February 10, 7–8 pm

 Indian Trails

Indian Folk Art Workshop GRADES K–5

Tuesday, February 11  Vernon Area

4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm

Movie Screening: *A Suitable Girl*

Thursday, February 13, 7–8:30 pm

 Indian Trails



Look for the purple mandala throughout this issue of *Library Quarterly* to read full descriptions of Vernon Area One Book One Community programs.

Finale Event: Author Parini Shroff

Readers from across the north suburbs come together for an event with author Parini Shroff. Gain insight as she shares her inspiration behind this year's One Book One Community selection, *The Bandit Queens*.

Sunday, February 16, 1–2 pm   Stevenson High School West Auditorium, Lincolnshire

Library News

We Speak Your Language

All are welcome here, and now patrons who speak other languages can feel more at home thanks to LanguageLine, a live interpretation service now available at the library. Using the telephone or video chat, library staff can immediately access an interpreter for any of 240 languages, including Hindi, Russian, Telugu, Tamil, Mongolian, Korean, Mandarin, and American Sign Language. Just ask at any desk.

Popular Magazines, Paywall Free

A huge e-reading upgrade this summer added access to 300,000 new e-books and audiobooks — and something else, too: magazines! Log in to the Libby app with your library card for instant, anywhere access to favorites like *US Weekly*, *Star*, *The New Yorker*, *Woman's World*, *Cook's Illustrated*, *Prevention*, *New Scientist*, *The Week*, *National Geographic*, and magazines for kids like *Highlights*.



Use It To Keep It

In Illinois, library cards that are unused for 3+ years must be deactivated and deleted. At Vernon Area, this annual cleanup happens in January. The good news is that to keep your card, all you need to do is use it by the end of the year! Visit the library and check something out. This will reset your status and restart the clock. Or log in at VAPLD.info/account using your library card number and PIN (usually the last 4 digits of the phone number that we have on file with your account).



◀ Celebrating 50 years

Another memory in library history captured during the September Staff Institute Day. Staff posed in the library's commemorative 50th anniversary shirts to celebrate a half century of providing resources, programming, and other library services to the community.

Community Collections

Toys for Tots

Drop off new, unwrapped toys in the library lobby.

November 22–December 8

Prom Dress Collection

Bring new or almost-new formal wear and accessories to help young women attend their prom in style.

February 22–March 23



Classes & Events for teens

Rebecca Caudill Award Book Discussion GRADES 6-8

Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk after registering.

Wednesdays, 7-8 pm December 11: *A Duet for Home* by Karina Yan Glaser February 12: *The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn THROUGH GRADE 8

Add some fun to Friday night. Log in from your kitchen and cook along live over Zoom using recipes you receive in advance.

Fridays, 7-8 pm December 13: Monkey Bread 3 Ways January 10: Pizza Party February 7: Edible Valentine's Gifts

Teen Take & Make: SLIME! GRADES 6-12

Each kit contains supplies and instructions to make glitter slime. You will be notified by email when your kit is ready for drive-up window pickup.

Pick up beginning Friday, December 20

Kid Market Application Period THROUGH GRADE 8

Junior entrepreneurs: apply for personalized business coaching, followed by an expo-style market day at the library. Details and application: VAPLD.info/KidMarket

Apply online: December 20-January 20
Market day: April 5

Craft-A-Palooza - Winter Break Edition THROUGH GRADE 8

Drop in for a fun afternoon of crafting. Put your imagination to work! We supply you with a wide variety of craft materials, you decide what to make.

Saturday, December 21, 1-2:30 pm

Puzzle Race GRADES 3-ADULT

Put your jigsaw puzzle skills to the test in a timed competition. Teams have up to 2 hours to complete as much of a 500-piece puzzle as possible. Register individually or in a team of up to four people. Prizes will be awarded. Adult required for teams with children under age 12.

Thursday, January 2, 1-3 pm

Coding with Ozobot Blockly GRADES 6-8

Learn how to code by navigating Ozobot Blockly through a maze. Watch out for traps and tricks!

Monday, January 6, 7-8:15 pm

Teen Service Club: Giving Back on MLK Day GRADES 7-12

Engage with your community while honoring the legacy of Dr. King. Make no-sew blankets, cards and other crafts that will be donated to local organizations. Earn volunteer service hours for participating.

Monday, January 20, 3-4:30 pm

Diamond Art Painting GRADES 6-12

De-stress as you create art using small stick-on gems. Leave with a masterpiece to show family and friends

Wednesday, January 22, 7-8:15 pm

Off the Page: A Teen Book Club GRADES 8-12

Participants get a copy of the book to keep and custard (our treat!).

Mondays, 7-8:15 pm
Culver's Lincolnshire
January 27: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
February 17: *Didn't See That Coming* by Jesse Q. Sutanto



Diamond Art Painting, January 22

Parent Education: The Five Principles of Parenting with Dr. Aliza Pressman PARENTS OF STUDENTS

IN GRADES K-12

Discover five principles to reparent yourself and help your kids build the resilience they need to thrive. Bestselling author Dr. Aliza Pressman helps you chart a manageable course for raising good humans that's aligned with your own values and your children's temperaments. Presented in partnership with D96, D102, and D103.

Wednesday, February 5, 7-8 pm

Intro to AI GRADES 5-8

Work with Teachable Machine and Scratch to train image recognition AI and implement it in a game. Learn about other types of AI and an intro to AI ethics with coder Evy Chan.

Monday, February 17
1-2 pm or 3-4 pm

Prom Dress Collection

Donate new or almost-new formal wear and accessories to help local young women attend their prom in style. In partnership with Zengeler Cleaners and Mothers Trust Foundation of Lake County.

February 22-March 23

Sublimation: Pillow Cases GRADES 6-12

Use Canva to create a design, then use library equipment to imprint it on a pillow case. Supplies to make one pillow case are included.

Wednesday, February 26
5-6 pm or 7-8 pm

Featured Resources for elementary-aged kids



MUSEUM PASSES

Check out a Museum Adventure Pass or an Explore More Illinois pass for free admission or other discounts at popular spots including Bronzeville Children's Museum or Brookfield Zoo. VAPLD.info/museum-passes



STREAM VIDEOS AND BOOKS WITH KANOPY KIDS

Instantly stream unlimited quality programming and storybooks for kids, including favorites like Mo Willems, Blippi, Scaredy Squirrel, and more. Download the Kanopy Kids app to take it on the go. VAPLD.info/KanopyKids



SCREEN-FREE TECH

From Ozobot coding kits to snap circuits, the library has plenty of screen-free tech options to keep kids busy and learning. See available items and place holds at VAPLD.info/ScreenFreeTech

Classes & Events for elementary-aged kids

Note location with each item (in person, online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1486.

Winter Card Workshop GRADES K-5

Create home-made cards that radiate the warmth and love of the season. We will use a combination of papers, embellishments and other art supplies to create two heartfelt cards. Dress for a mess.

Tuesday, December 3
in person
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Portable Planetarium with the Discovery Center Museum GRADES K-5

Get an up-close look at the moon and stars in The Discovery Center Museum's new portable planetarium. Choose one session to attend.

Thursday, December 5, 4:30–5:15 pm or 5:30–6:15 pm in person

Take & Make Craft Kits ALL AGES

Stop by the library each month for instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

December 6: Cardinal in a Tree
December 20: New Year's Party in a Bag
January 10: Sledding Fun
February 7: Kaledioscope

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am
December 7: Todd Downing
January 11: Little Lunas
February 15: Nanny Nikki

Hour of Code with SHS Girls in STEAM GRADES K-4

Stevenson High School Girls in STEAM demystify code in this beginner-level one hour introduction to computer science. Choose one session to attend.

Monday, December 9, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm in person

Illinois Libraries Present: The Magic of Raina Telgemeier GRADES 3 & UP

Meet Raina Telgemeier, *New York Times* bestselling author and illustrator of the graphic novels *Smile*, *Drama*, *Sisters*, *Ghosts*, and *Guts*, as she shares about her life and work.

Tuesday, December 10, 7–8 pm online



Location: in person, online

K9 Reading Buddies GRADES 1-5

Build confidence and encourage literacy as you read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Sign up for a 15-minute spot beginning 30 days before the program by calling 224-543-1486 or visiting the Youth Desk.

Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 pm 

December 11, January 15, February 19

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn GRADES K-8

Add some fun to Friday night. Log in from your kitchen and cook along live over Zoom using recipes you receive in advance.

Fridays, 7-8 pm 

December 13: Monkey Bread 3 Ways

January 10: Pizza Party

February 7: Edible Gifts for Valentine's Day

Kid Market Application Period GRADES 2-8

Junior entrepreneurs: apply for personalized business coaching, followed by an expo-style market day at the library in April. Details and application: VAPLD.info/KidMarket

December 20-January 20

Market Day: April 5 

Craft-A-Palooza - Winter Break Edition GRADES K-8

Put your imagination to work with a fun afternoon of crafting. We provide the supplies, you decide what to make.

Saturday, December 21, 1-2:30 pm 

Family Fort & Read ALL AGES

Build a cozy fort at the library and snuggle in for a family read. Supplies will be provided. Drop in; no signup required.

Fridays, December 27, January 3, 1:30-3 pm 

Saturday, February 1, 12-4 pm 

Puzzle Race GRADES 3-ADULT

Put your jigsaw puzzle skills to the test in a timed competition. Teams have up to 2 hours to complete as much of a 500-piece puzzle as possible. Register individually or in a team of up to four people. Prizes will be awarded. Adult required for teams with children under age 12.

Thursday, January 2, 1-3 pm 

Coding with Ozobot Blockly GRADES 3-5

Learn coding basics as you use the Blockly visual programming language to guide Ozobot through a maze.

Monday, January 6, 4:30-5:15 pm 

Lego Master Builders GRADES K-5

Love building with Legos? Work through a challenge, then let your imagination run wild during free building time.

Monday, January 13, 4:30-5:30 pm or 7-8 pm 



Exploring Great Artists, January 14

Exploring Great Artists: Rene Magritte GRADES K-5

Explore the concept of surrealism and reflection inspired by René Magritte. Participants will create a reflection of a dream-like image in the iris of an eye.

Tuesday, January 14 

Grades K-2: 4:30-5:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 7-8 pm

Giving Back on MLK Day GRADES K-5

Engage with your community while honoring the legacy of Dr. King. Make no-sew blankets, cards and other crafts that will be donated to local organizations. Supplies and instructions provided. Family groups welcome.

Monday, January 20, 1-2:30 pm 

Bluestem Award Book Discussion GRADES 3-5

This parent and child book group will discuss *Just Right Jillian* by Nicole D. Collier. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk.

Thursday, January 23, 7-8 pm 

Dance to China: Lunar New Year Celebration GRADES K-5

Learn how dance transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries as Angela Tam, founding Artistic Director of Yin He Dance, performs dances from China's different regions and cultural groups.

Saturday, January 25, 11 am-12 pm 

Winter STEM Storytime GRADES K-2

Featuring a winter story and a related hands-on STEM activities.

Tuesday, January 28, 4:30-5:15 pm 

Art Workshop: Collaged Arctic Animals GRADES 3-5

Use a variety of colored and patterned papers to create a collaged arctic animal in this workshop led by artist and illustrator Terri Murphy.

Thursday, January 30, 4:30-6 pm or 6:30-8 pm 

Yoga Storytime AGES 3–8

Twist, bend, and stretch in this kid-friendly yoga storytime. Miss Sarah combines well-being and early literacy while sharing stories, rhymes and simple poses with you and your child.

Saturday, February 1, 10–10:45 am 

Create Art with Miss Jane GRADES K–5

Create your own Tree of Love inspired by Gustav Klimt's *Tree of Life*. Dress for a mess.

Monday, February 3 
Grades K–2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3–5: 7–8 pm

Monarch Award Book Discussion GRADES K–2

This parent and child book club will read *I am the Shark* by Joan Holub as a group, share their thoughts, and enjoy a related craft.

Tuesday, February 4, 6:30–7:15 pm 

Parent Education: The Five Principles of Parenting with Dr. Aliza Pressman PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K–12

Discover five principles to reparent yourself and help your kids build the resilience they need to thrive. Bestselling author Dr. Aliza Pressman helps you chart a manageable course for raising good humans that's aligned with your own values and your children's temperaments. Presented in partnership with D96, D102, and D103.

Wednesday, February 5, 7–8 pm 

TinkerCAD: CodeBlocks GRADES 3–5

Learn how to make a 3D rendered object with some new tools and your imagination. Choose one session to attend.

Thursday, February 6, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm 

Calling All Junior Entrepreneurs!

Is your student always busy creating something—keychains, slime, bracelets, or any other DIY project?

Encourage them to apply to participate in Kid Market at the library—a hands-on opportunity for future entrepreneurs to develop real-life business and money management skills.

Successful applications can sell their wares at a table at the Kid Market on April 5 and will receive business coaching from the library's Business Librarian. Details and application: VAPLD.info/KidMarket

Application Period: December 20–January 20
Open to children in grades 2–8

Lego Robotics GRADES K–5

Build and program the Drumming Monkey model in this engaging, hands-on program.

Monday, February 10 
Grades K–2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3–5: 7–8 pm

Indian Folk Art Workshop GRADES K–5 

Led by instructor Bhavya Nanjundaiyer. No experience necessary. All supplies provided.

Tuesday, February 11, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm 

**Firefly Family Theatre Presents Spark's Snow Day**

AGES 2–7

Spark the firefly learns all about snow, hibernation and exciting winter activities like sledding and ice skating during her first snow day. Featuring puppets, original music, and interactive movement, there's something for all ages to enjoy.

Tuesday, February 25, 10–10:45 am 

Frog Lady & Friends GRADES K–5

A library favorite! The Frog Lady brings her frogs and friends to the library. Learn more about her favorite amphibians and reptiles and see them up close.

Thursday, February 27, 4:30–5:30 pm 



Classes & Events for early childhood

Drop In

It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine. Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age. Claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun!

Baby Rhyme Storytime 0-14 MONTHS

Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes and books with Miss Kelsey. Then connect with neighbors while your baby plays with educational toys and socializes with others.

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 am 

December 4, 11, 18; January 8, 15, 22; February 5, 12, 26

Wiggling Ones 12-24 MONTHS

Add 30 minutes of joy to your week. Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families, and Miss Julia.

Tuesdays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 

December 3, 10, 17; January 7, 14, 21; February 4, 11, 18

Together 2s & 3s 2-3 YEARS

Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.

Mondays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 

December 2, 9, 16; January 6, 13, 20; February 3, 10, 17

Preschool Storytime 3-5 YEARS

Get ready for school with Miss Emily by practicing the language, listening and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten. Children attend without an adult.

Thursdays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 

December 5, 12, 19; January 9, 16, 23; February 6, 13, 20

Starry Night Storytime AGES 0-6

Get out those last few wiggles during an evening storytime with Miss Julia.

Thursdays, 6-6:30 pm 

December 19, January 16, February 20

Saturday Storytime AGES 0-6

Literacy begins at the library. Expert librarians use books, songs and props that capture the attention of all ages. Perfect for working families, bookworms, wiggleworms and everyone in between.

Saturday, December 14, 10-10:30 am 

Family Fort & Read ALL AGES

Build a cozy fort at the library and snuggle in for a family read. Fort building supplies will be provided. Drop in anytime.

Fridays, December 27; January 3, 1:30-3 pm 

Saturday, February 1, 12-4 pm 

Playdate at the Library AGES 0-5

Get out of the house for a welcoming library playdate that celebrates the power of free play in early childhood.

Fridays, 9:30-11 am 

December 27; January 3, 24; February 28

Snowy Sensory Storytime AGES 0-6

Let's have SNOW much fun exploring, singing, reading, and playing at Sensory Storytime. For children of all abilities.

Tuesday, January 28, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 



Saturday, February 1

The local library is an ideal place for children to play, discover, make friends, and have fun. Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day by visiting us and participating in fun activities for the whole family.

Baby Book Giveaway

AGES 0-12 MONTHS

Visit the Youth desk and receive a free Hello, Baby! Bundle, which includes a book and other goodies. For first-time recipients only.

Sat Feb 1, 9 am-5 pm 

Yoga Storytime AGES 3-8

Twist, bend, and stretch in this kid-friendly yoga storytime.

Miss Sarah combines well-being and early literacy while sharing stories, rhymes and simple poses with you and your child. Sign up to attend.

Sat Feb 1, 10-10:45 am 

Family Fort & Read

ALL AGES

Drop in to build a cozy fort at the library and snuggle in for a family read. Fort building supplies will be provided. No signup required.

Sat Feb 1, 12-4 pm 



Sign Up in Advance

Free and open to all. For these storytimes and events, sign up 30 days in advance at VAPLD.info/calendar, by telephone at 224-543-1486 or at any public service desk in the library. Note location with each item (in person, online).

Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin AGES 0-6

Read stories and sing songs in Mandarin and English with Miss Laura.

10-10:30 am

Saturdays, November 23; January 18

Sunshine Squad AGES 0-6

Help build a better, more compassionate world. Stories and activities focus on social-emotional development and cultural appreciation.

10-10:45 am

Saturday, November 30: Take a Breath

Saturday, January 4: I'm a Helper!

Evening Stories with Miss Emily AGE 3-GRADE 2

Put on pajamas and enjoy a bedtime story with Miss Emily. Sign up for each month separately.

Wednesdays, 7-7:30 pm

December 4, 11, 18; January 8, 15, 22; February 5, 12, 19

Science Detectives AGES 3-6

STEM-themed stories and activities with Miss Lisa Marie.

Fridays, 10-10:30 am

December 6, January 10, February 7

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11-11:45 am

December 7: Todd Downing

January 11: Little Lunas

February 15: Nanny Nikki

New Year's Noon AGES 0-6

Wear your fancy party clothes and celebrate New Year's Eve a little early. Enjoy stories, songs, a craft, and a special countdown just before noon!

Friday, December 29, 11:15 am-12 pm

Mini Math Magicians AGES 3-5

Explore math concepts through books, games and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursdays, 10-10:30 am

January 30, February 27

Yoga Storytime AGES 3-8

Miss Sarah combines well-being and early literacy while sharing stories, rhymes and simple poses with you and your child.

Saturday, February 1, 10-10:45 am

Bilingual Storytime: Polish AGES 0-6

Enjoy stories, songs, and explore an introduction to Polish in this interactive story time led by The Language Lab.

Friday, February 21, 10-10:30 am

Firefly Family Theater Presents Spark's Snow Day

AGES 2-7

Spark the firefly learns all about snow, hibernation, and exciting winter activities during her first snow day. Featuring puppets, original music, and interactive movement.

Tuesday, February 25, 10-10:45 am

Nanny Nikki Concert, February 15



Vernon Area Public Library
300 Olde Half Day Rd.
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-2901

Connect

VAPLD.info

Main: 847-634-3650

App: Look for Vernon Area Public Library in your device's App Store

Socials: Follow @vernnonlibrary for updates and fun content



Get a Library Card

Free and available to all district residents. Apply online at VAPLD.info/card or visit.

Returns

Return materials 24/7 in front of the library or at these drop boxes:

VAPLD.info/bookdrops

This magazine is printed on recycled paper made of 30% post-consumer waste.



Open

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 9 pm

Friday–Saturday 9 am – 5 pm

Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

"Mask required" access is available daily during the 30 minutes before official public hours for anyone who needs or prefers an extra measure of protection.

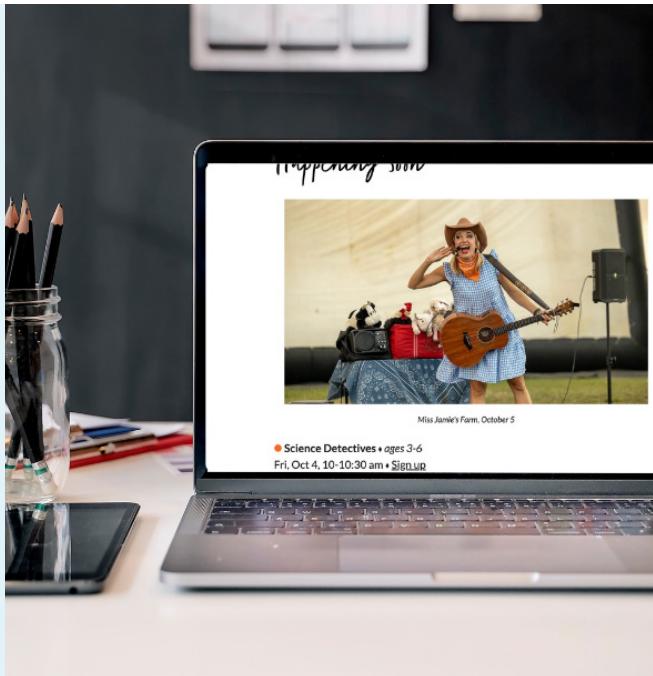
Closed

November 27, closes at 5 pm

November 28

December 24–25

December 31–January 1



▲ Check this out

Are you getting the latest library and program updates in your inbox? Make sure you stay up to date on library services, resources, and events. You'll receive 1-2 emails per month in the categories you select. Sign up to get on the list at VAPLD.info/subscribe.